MUTINY

A PAPER OF ANARCHISTIC IDEAS & ACTIONS

JULY 2008
ISSUE #28

G20 AFTERSHOCKS:
REFUSING TO BE SILENT

VIOLENT BOSS
HAS CHARGES DISMISSED

ENVIRONMENTAL
DIRECT ACTION
IN NEWCASTLE

NO BORDERS CAMP
OF PATRAS, GREECE

G8 COUNTER FORUM JAPAN
REPORTBACK

Mutiny began as a group exploring different ways to resist war at home & abroad. We started a monthly zine to explore different avenues of disobedience. We know there are lots of radical ideas around & we want people to write about their experiences & opinions. The Mutiny collective meets regularly & everyone is lovely. Contact us if you're interested.

(The mutiny zine collective does not necessarily agree with all the opinions of contributors. Contributors do not necessarily agree with all the opinions of the mutiny collective. The mutiny collective doesn't agree with all the opinions of the mutiny collective.)

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Back issues should soon be up at **www.jura.org.au**

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Lots of very Brief News

Japan: June 12 - A day labourer in Kamagasaki was tortured by police. Many day labourers and neighbourhood youth began to riot.

In the run-up to the G8 over 40 people were arrested in pre-emptive sweeps of broad left and anarchist groups.

July 9 - Hundreds of activists marched in a demonstration organised by the Ainu, a disenfranchised indigenous population of Hokkaido, the island where the G8 summit was being held. The march was surrounded by several rows of police the entire time. Protesters were holding signs in English and Japanese saying "No G8", and "Japan is a police state".

"The Japanese government's policies towards the Ainu are symbolic of the G8's policies of dominance and oppression throughout the world", said Japanese organisers.

"...my friend and I, frustrated with the police, went across the street where there was a sign welcoming participants to the G8 summit. We started breaking and tearing it," says Jone, a US activist. "Police held us and tried to arrest us, but other demonstrators came to help and managed to take us away from the police."

Three people were arrested and remain in custody.

http://www.gipfelsoli.org/Home/Hokkaido_2008/5357.html

Vietnam: July 3 - Some 6,000 workers at a Vietnam-based plant owned by textile manufacturer the Chutex Group went on strike over pay levels.

The strike asked the company's management to raise basic salaries by 15 per cent, and provide workers with accommodation and transportation costs. The company responded with an offer to raise salaries by 10 per cent but this was declined and the strike continued.

South Africa: July 4 - Workers have still not resumed work at Mpumalanga's 2010 World Cup stadium after workers downed tools in a wage protest.

The workers picketing the Mbombela Stadium site outside Nelspruit include 500 dismissed last Monday. The Mbombela Stadium Joint Venture fired the workers for an unprotected strike in defiance of earlier agreements. The workers responded by rioting, burning a tipper truck, security guards' motorcycles and a security office.

Police have since maintained tight security.

"Negotiations are still taking place... until a settlement is reached" said a National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) spokesperson. The demands include bigger night shift allowances and better performance bonuses.

Greece: Bangladeshi workers in clothing sweatshop in Athens, were attacked by company thugs with iron bars and wooden clubs for refusing to work on Sundays. When their co-workers walked out in solidarity, the company fired 120 out of 180 of the workforce. In response the workers have sealed the factory off forcing the company to withdraw the lay-offs and negotiate.

Working conditions in the sweatshop have been known to be appalling.

As a result of further strikes and blockading of the factory, all 120 lay-offs have been recalled with the bosses promising to pay all worked hours and social security debts so far, and refrain from further violence.

France: June 22 - Detained immigrants burned down two buildings at the Vincennes detention centre in Paris, after the death of a 41-year-old Tunisian migrant Saturday. Fourteen migrants were able to escape during the chaos. Guards claim that the migrant who died had a heart attack while he was alone in his cell, but

authorities have promised to investigate the matter following the uprising.

January 23 - Two persons are arrested during a road control by the border police near Vierzon. In the trunk, police found chlorate, plans of a juvenile prison (EPM) and manuals for sabotage. They are imprisoned under a special jurisdiction: anti-terrorism.

China: Thousands of outraged villagers in Weng'an, Guizhou surrounded and torched local police stations and Communist Party offices. The incidents were following the alleged murder and cover up of a 15-year-old girl and her uncle. Rioters also overturned and set fire to 20 cars, many of which were police or government vehicles. Many who participated in the violence were teenagers, and may have been classmates with the young girl.

The teen's body was found in a river, after, according to police, she took her own life by jumping off a bridge. Locals claim she was raped and murdered by the son of a senior police official. Her uncle, a high school teacher, was beaten to death by police after he demanded they investigate his niece's death and perform an autopsy.

Hungary: Budapest's Pride March was marred by right wing protesters on the weekend. A total of 45 people were taken into custody. Extremists threw eggs, bottles and rocks at marchers, and cobblestones and petrol bombs at authorities. Police said at least seven people were injured including a journalist and two police officers.

It's been called the worst violence in the Pride Parade's twelve year history.

The hundreds who marched did so bravely – last year's pride march was violent also, and in the last couple of weeks two gay venues in the city had been petrol bombed.

Chile: June 24 - Mapuche communities from Lleu Lleu Lake occupied traditional lands.

Families from Choque (a section of Lleu Lleu Lake) initiated a land recuperation of Fundo Puntilla of Tranaquepe, owned by forestry giant Forestal Mininco-CMPC, and the Fundo El Canelo owned by Forestal Volterra, another forestry company. A public statement made by the community members announced, "we forcefully refuse the militarisation of the different zones currently in conflict, which in the case of our land claim includes the installation of a police camp in nearby Las Huellas."

These communities now join various others that have chosen to bypass legal means of recovering ancestral lands and are using direct action. Police responses to such actions have included the deaths of Mapuche youth, violent raids, torture and harsh jail sentences to community leaders and other Indigenous men and women. Only a few days previous, on June 21, Jorge Mariman Loncomilla a teenager from a different Mapuche community in conflict was shot during a house raid. He was hospitalised for injuries that included a broken arm.

A general alert was raised on the following days concerning a possible forceful removal and violent retaliation.

Lleu Lleu is one of the few lakes that still has water clean enough to drink, and for many years has been a focus of Mapuche actions to recover surrounding lands from rich land owners and forestry companies. The announcement also states the final objective of occupying a total of 10,000 hectares, a process that began months ago with entries into different properties.

Spain: June 27 - Sex workers in Madrid put on a fashion show to protest against property development plans.

As well as objecting to the gentrification of premises they have worked in for many years, the sex workers wanted to reach out to their neighbours and show that they are not a threat to the community.

Prostitution is illegal in Spain, but is tolerated.

News from: bombsandshields.blogspot.com, libcom.org and an international correspondent.

No Borders Camp, Patras, Greece

August 28 – 31st 2008

By Lion

On Saturday 24th May, forty comrades associated with anarchist group AK Salonica (Anti-Authoritarian Assembly, Thessaloniki) drove six hours to the port of Patras on the north west coast of Central Greece to connect water to the refugee camp.

The camp is populated by approximately 1000 men who are mostly survivors from the war in Afghanistan. The camp was built thirteen years ago by Kurds from Iraq and has always been an important port for migrants from the middle-east on route to Europe.

The refugees reside in lodgings constructed from scrap materials. The settlement is blockaded by police on a permanent basis so that people cannot exit freely. In the past, some of those who have attempted to exit have been beaten and arrested. Others have been kidnapped and deported.

The people living in the camp have risked their lives to get this far. They are now in a state of limbo. Some people in the Patras camp have lawyers who are assisting with claims for political asylum, but there are not enough lawyers to meet the needs of people in the camp.

demolition of the camp in january 2008

In January 2008, authorities from the municipality in conjunction with the district government, attempted to destroy the camp. In the process, the water was disconnected from the city water main and the residents of the camp have been forced to endure non-existent sanitation and shocking health problems ever since. Instances of gastro and other related infections are very common in the camp, and there is not adequate health care. The refugees rely on hand outs and welfare from locals, but many people in Patras are hostile towards the refugees.

In response to the demolition, in January and February 2008, two large demonstrations were organised by a broad coalition of anti-authoritarian, anarchist and leftist groups under the banner of No Borders Patras. Approximately 1500 people attended. From August 28th – 31st, a No Borders protest camp will be held to bring people from all over Europe.

Since 1988, 895 people have died in the Aegean sea whilst trying to reach Greece from Turkey. Around 250 people died this way just in the past year.

Now “Fortress Europe” has a new weapon. Frontex is a relatively new security system developed by the EU, aimed at keeping so-called “illegal” migrants out of Europe. Frontex will pour millions of dollars into border patrol, coastal guards, iris scan equipment and other forms of security technology that will enable governments to share information about those wishing to enter Europe without papers. The EU is renowned for aiding inhumane practices towards migrants who are not fortunate enough to have papers. At least 12,160 people have died since 1988 along the European frontiers.

According to a report from April 2008 by No Fortress Europe, at least 101 migrants and refugees died at the gates of the European Union during April alone. Five men died hidden in the hold of a cargo vessel in the Canary Islands; four people drowned along the border between Turkey and Iraq after being thrown into a river by Turkish police during a forced expulsion, and one Eritrean refugee was shot dead under the fire of Egyptian police along the Israeli border. Mid sea, 24 people drowned between Algeria and Spain and 24 between Tunisia and Italy, off the Sicilian coast, where in recent months a sharp increase in landings were registered - because of good weather and the delay of Frontex joint patrolling.

The majority of people in Greek society are indifferent to this genocide. While Greece had massive protests against the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, daily issues of migration rarely make the news.

Our action to re-connect the water supply demonstrated that with focus, practical skills and just a bit of planning and preparation, it’s quite easy to make a positive difference in situations where the odds are stacked against you.

Later that night a public meeting took place in the town centre. Jafer is a resident of the camp who spoke of a treacherous journey from Afghanistan. While crossing the Turkish border into Greece, he was shot at.

The next day, a mass meeting was held between members of the broad No Borders Patras coalition and the people living in the camp. The topic of the meeting was the organisational functions leading up to the August camp. People living in the camp explained that they did not want to jeopardise their opportunities for leaving Patras and that they were hesitant about the police repression

plumbing equipment used to reconnect the water

Demonstrations by Afgan refugees in February 2008

“Stop the massive arrests and the police pressure around the camp”

“Let us free to live our lives”

assembly at the patras refugee camp

that may follow once the activist campers leave Patras. This meeting exposed the complex politics of agency and representation. It became apparent that a hierarchy had developed in the camp, whereby one older man who had been in jail for so-called "people smuggling," was asserting a lot of authority in the camp. How could the No Borders Patras Coalition possibly get an idea of what the refugees wanted the No Borders camp in August to look like?

The meeting also raised questions about the role of the various anarchist groups in Greek society: will Frontex and Fortress Europe benefit from a conservative media campaign that will scream: "Anarchists are coming to burn Patras!"? Or will the camp provide an opportunity for refugees to tell their stories and move further towards establishing the kind of lives they want? Some anarchist groups had criticized AK Salonica for their "welfare" approach. The meeting raised questions about how we can most effectively help the people in the camp. They don't necessarily need our welfare (although someone should have re-connected the water supply months ago). They need papers. They need safe passage into Europe. They need lawyers and others to draft their applications for asylum, and where they cannot make out the grounds for asylum, they need fake IDs! They need jobs and their own means of getting money.

At Woomera in 2002 and at Xanthi (near the border between Greece and Bulgaria) in 2005, refugees were freed from immigration detention centers after demonstrators spontaneously overpowered police. But this will not be the aim of the Patras No Borders camp, because Patras is a not a detention center and the people in the camp do not wish to be freed in order to stay in Greece.

Unfortunately on 30th May, just five days later, the municipal government undid our hard work and disconnected the water supply. Our action may have demonstrated how easy it is to employ DiY practical skills and make a positive difference to people's lives, but it also demonstrated that the scale of human rights violations in Patras and in Europe as a whole, requires concerted international action and solidarity.

For more information see:

www.noborderpatras.org/en/

and www.no-fortress-europe.eu

Anti-authoritarian Movement Greece (AK):

www.resistance2003.gr/en/

G20 aftershocks:
refusing to be silent

This is a speech given at the 'Putting the Terror Laws on Trial' forum organised by the Stop the War Coalition, June 23. The other speakers were Peter Russo, a lawyer who acted for Mohammed Haneef, and Frank, the uncle of one of the Goulburn 9 – a group of Muslim men from Sydney who have been held since November 2005 under anti-terror laws.

I had input from others in writing this speech, but I take responsibility for the opinions expressed in it: they're not necessarily those of the arrestees or others in the solidarity campaign.

- Lou Thatcher

I'm from a group organising political solidarity and practical support for people facing charges after the G20 protests in 2006. One of the reasons we do this is because we see these cases as connected to, and as part of, broader struggles, so I'm grateful to Stop the War and to the other speakers for the chance to be part of this forum tonight.

We are here tonight because there has been a sustained offensive against people who represent any kind of threat to the conservative political agenda. The anti-terror legislation has been part of a sustained, racist campaign against Muslim communities and part of a justification for the government's ongoing involvement in the occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan. In a different but not unconnected way, we have seen some serious attacks on protests and protestors over the past few years.

So I'll talk briefly about what has happened, the legal situation, and why we think this is important.

In November 2006 the G20, which is the finance ministers from the 20 biggest economies in the world plus a few representatives from bodies like the World Bank, met in Melbourne. They were met with protests.

On the Friday, a couple of smallish groups occupied the offices of Defence Force recruiting, Tenix – a major military contractor, and branches of ANZ bank, which is profiteering from the war in Iraq, among others. For these occupations – which lasted no more than 15 minutes and involved nothing more than red glitter and water pistols – people have been charged with 'Aggravated Burglary'. This is a new and very serious charge for what is a fairly common action.

On the Friday night, in what I can only think of as an exercise in pre-emptive policing, a squatted warehouse that was the home to a counter-conference, and was providing accommodation for people from out of town, was busted

and evicted by police, as was a residential squat which had hosted a fundraiser party but was otherwise unconnected to any protest action.

On the Saturday that the G20 was in town, as was standard for any meeting of the powerful these days, the city was blocked off. Barricades and police prevented anyone from going anywhere near where the G20 were meeting. In fact, the cops handed out little cards suggesting that everyone go and protest in a park. Thousands of people defied this to protest the G20 in the streets of central Melbourne, and a few hundred people diverged from the main rally, dismantled some barricades – which, again, shouldn't have been there in the first place – and smashed the windows of a police van.

Now, personally, I'm happy to say that I think it was a good thing that the police van was smashed. I think what we've heard from other speakers tonight can go a little way towards explaining some of the reasons why people might be justifiably angry at law enforcement institutions. That's not to say that the protest was a perfect model to be repeated, but I'm broadly in sympathy with the politics of confronting the barricades.

That being said, I also want to say that there are people who have been working in the solidarity campaign from the start who didn't agree with the tactics on the day but who have been outspoken in their solidarity because they recognise, as I do, that the police response is out of proportion and that it is an attack on progressive movements generally and on all of our abilities to protest, whatever tactics we chose.

We also have to remember what it was that people were protesting about. People came with a variety of politics against the G20 - but whether it was opposition to the wars in Iraq in Afghanistan, or opposition to neoliberalism or to neocolonialism, people were saying that they oppose the policies of the G20 member states because those policies create war and poverty - that the states are violent. And this violence puts a couple of broken windows into perspective.

Arrests began the day after these protests and continued for months – the most recent arrest was made in December last year, over a year after the alleged offences. The charges are unprecendented and very serious - people are charged with things like riot, aggravated burglary and conduct endangering life; and the severity of the charges are part of the attack.

Currently a man called Akin Sari is in Barwon prison serving a 28 month prison sentence, which he's in the process of appealing. Amongst the general media hype around the G20 protests, Akin has been singled out for special condemnation & racist vilification. All of the Children's Court cases are finished. For the people going through adult court, 10 people agreed to plead guilty to reduced charges, which leaves 13 people who will go to trial to fight the charges. The dates for these hearings were recently set for mid next year.

There has also been an absolutely unprecedented media crackdown on those facing charges. The mass media is not generally a friend of the left, but

this new campaign has taken things to another level. There has been the "dob in a thug" newspaper photos, photos of "persons of interest" – trying to isolate and demonise individuals.

What happened when people were arrested in Sydney is worth looking at more closely – because these raids are an interesting example of how the attack on protests after the G20, and before APEC, come together with the climate and infrastructure of the 'war on terror.'

The cops responsible for APEC policing worked very closely with the Victorian police – some of them went down to monitor the G20 protests, and later, when demonstrations were held outside court, Melbourne police sent up footage to the APEC taskforce. We know all this from reading the notes of Taskforce Salver, which was the taskforce set up to catch people after the G20- many of their notes were released during the committal hearing, with some bits blacked out.

From the notes we also know that Taskforce Salver had a list of five people to arrest in Sydney. When they had this list they called up a man in the APEC taskforce called Christopher Charles Nicholson. He suggested that the Sydney arrests be coordinated through either the serious crime unit or the counter-terrorism squad. So Detective Hill from Taskforce Salver called up the NSW counter-terrorism squad, but the cop he talked to said that he didn't think that those arrests fell under their brief. But, when the cops knocked on – or kicked in – our friends' doors at 6am in March last year, officers from Taskforce Salver, the APEC taskforce and the counter terrorism squad were present. So it's clear that someone - & I'm guessing the APEC taskforce – were able to convince the counter terrorism unit that this was an appropriate way to spend their time.

The other big connection with the APEC securitisation is the fact that all of the G20 arrestees – along with one lone Sydney anti-war activist – were the first people to be put on the APEC "excluded persons" list. Now, as all except the 5 living in Sydney were prohibited at the time from leaving Victoria because of their bail conditions – that is, they were already banned from coming within hundreds of kilometres of the "restricted zone" in the CBD – this didn't make any sense at all. Except, of course to provide a media scapegoat.

All these connections make it clear that these cases – like other political trials – are about far more than the fate of the individuals caught up in them. In some ways, this criminalisation of dissent isn't that new - but we are also seeing a general intensification and militarisation of policing, whether it's the APEC security zone, the anti-terror arrests the previous speakers have detailed, or cops and troops being sent into Aboriginal communities or our Pacific neighbours to deal with alleged social problems.

The G20 arrests are part of a climate of fear and a crackdown on anything perceived of as dissent – and so, the outcome will effect all of our abilities to resist this climate and to take action for what we believe in – whether through direct action, civil disobedience, or marching in the streets.

That's why we need a vigorous, public, political defence campaign.

The entire campaign against the arrestees – the charges, the media campaign, the hype – is geared towards intimidating people out of speaking, out of being active, out of dissenting. We need a public response to this intimidation or otherwise the isolation of activists becomes endemic. Unless we are prepared to speak up in defence of protestors, we leave individuals isolated and alone.

We have started to see some support from activists, organisations and unions. We need to continue building the political campaign against the charges. We have a petition to drop the charges that we would like people to sign, and take away to their workplaces and collect signatures. We would like unions and organisations to pass a motion of support for the campaign – we have a model motion – and of course to donate to our solidarity fund.

Alongside this, of course, people need a legal campaign. And that's why they need practical and financial support as well as political solidarity – lawyers cost money, as does travel, as does not being able to work because you're in court for months.

And the people fighting the charges in court are, in many ways, fighting for the rest of us as well as for themselves, so any help you can give will be appreciated.

For more information and updates, and to download the petition: **http://www.afterG20.org**. You can email **afterG20@gmail.com**.

Funds are needed urgently for legal and other support expenses
If you can help, the solidarity campaign has a bank account:
Melbourne University Credit Union Limited
Account name: G20 Arrestee Solidarity Network
cuscau2sxxx (only if transferring from overseas)
BSB 803-143 A/C number: 13291 (all transfers)

Friday 15 July 6-9pm

Melbourne poet π O talks about literature, culture & anarchism in Australia

+ spoken word + open mike

Black Rose, 11 Enmore Rd, Newtown

(a joint presentation from Black Rose & Jura: your two local anarchist infoshops)

Violent boss has charges dismissed

Magistrate: "Civil disobedience is merely a euphemism for breaking the law"

by Socialist Party reporters in Melbourne

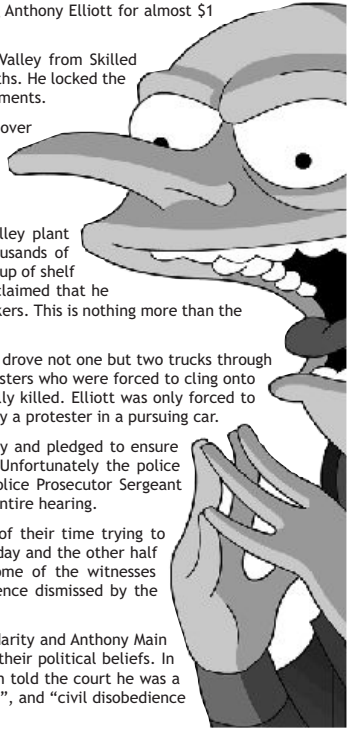
A boss who drove a semi-trailer through a group of protesters, endangering the lives of several people, walked free from court this week without so much as a slap on the wrist.

Anthony Elliott, the owner of the Elliott Group of companies in Melbourne, had all 15 charges against him dismissed after a 4 day court hearing.

The case related to a community assembly that was held outside the premises of Elliott Engineering on May 4th last year. The assembly was organised by Union Solidarity in support of 48 workers in the Latrobe Valley who were chasing Anthony Elliott for almost $1 million in unpaid entitlements.

Elliott bought the engineering plant in the Latrobe Valley from Skilled Engineering and then shut it down after about 18 months. He locked the workers out and refused to pay them their full entitlements.

The Latrobe Valley workers picketed their site for over 34 weeks in an attempt to stop Elliott removing the plant and equipment from the premises. The action in Kilsyth was designed to put added pressure on Elliott to pay the workers what they deserved.



Some of the workers had worked at the Latrobe Valley plant for over 20 years and many were owed tens of thousands of dollars. But through dodgy accounting and the setting up of shelf companies, Elliott found a loophole in the laws and claimed that he did not have to pay the entitlements owed to the workers. This is nothing more than the theft of workers' wages on a grand scale.

On the day of the community assembly Anthony Elliot drove not one but two trucks through the picket line. The second truck collected four protesters who were forced to cling onto the bull bar of the truck or be run over and potentially killed. Elliott was only forced to stop the truck more than a kilometre down the road by a protester in a pursuing car.

The police had witnessed the entire event on the day and pledged to ensure Elliott was punished with the full force of the law. Unfortunately the police were extremely unprepared for this case and the police Prosecutor Sergeant Murray Phillips seemed disinterested throughout the entire hearing.

The strategy of Elliott's defence was to spend half of their time trying to trip up the witnesses about specific details from the day and the other half attempting to discredit the witness's credibility. Some of the witnesses were accused of collusion and another had his evidence dismissed by the magistrate simply due to a prior unrelated conviction.

The other two witnesses, Dave Kerin from Union Solidarity and Anthony Main from the Socialist Party, were attacked at length for their political beliefs. In his summary magistrate Brian Clifford said that "Kerin told the court he was a teacher. I believe he is a teacher of civil disobedience", and "civil disobedience is merely a euphemism for breaking the law".

Clifford also said that “ringleader” Kerin had set up Union Solidarity as a vehicle to break the industrial laws and that he had perhaps stopped thousands of trucks dating back to his time in the BLF (Builders Labourers Federation). He said that the protesters were engaged in illegal conduct on the day and that they were “not afraid to break the law and ride on trucks”. “I believe that Mr. Kerin is an experienced bull bar rider” he said, “And I do not believe that he had any regard for anyone’s safety”.

Clifford described Main as the most obnoxious person in attendance at the picket line on the day. He seemed more disgusted that Main had yelled at Elliott about the unpaid entitlements and called him a “dog” than the fact that several people were nearly killed by the truck.

Clifford said that “Main gave evidence to this court saying that he is a strong advocate of democratic rights. Main is the absolute antithesis of that ideal and his credibility is therefore zero”.

In his judgement Clifford implied that the rights of Elliott as a property owner were more important than the rights of the protesters or indeed the rights of the workers who are owed hundreds of thousands of dollars. He said that the protesters were engaged in unlawful industrial action on the day and that they had unlawfully hindered Elliott.

Clifford said that the protesters were in no danger and that Elliott had not contravened the law. “If there was any danger at all on the day it was the protesters who created it” he said.

Not only did magistrate Clifford dismiss all the charges, but to flaunt his contempt for the protesters he asked the defence lawyer, Sean Grant, if he would like the court costs to be awarded against Main and Kerin! The magistrate and the defence lawyer shared a laugh when the defence replied “we would love to your honour but unfortunately there are no provisions to do that”.

In this case it was almost like the witnesses were on trial rather than the defendant who had nearly killed several people. The magistrate contradicted himself many times in his summary and showed little respect for his own laws.

Usually the ruling class, and their representatives in the judiciary, attempt to disguise the class bias in the legal system by pretending that the system is fair. In this case, however, the magistrate was very crude and open about the fact that he saw the rights of the boss to enter and exit his property as paramount to the safety of everyone else.

This case, if nothing else, proves that there is one law for the rich and another for the rest of us. In the past workers have been jailed for much less than what Elliott did on the day. As one of the workers employed by Elliott in the Latrobe Valley said “The courts are no place for workers to win”. Socialists see the courts as an instrument of the state. They are there to serve the interests of the ruling class over those of ordinary people.

The fight for these workers to get paid their entitlements is still continuing in the Federal Court. Unfortunately as this worker said “In this case even if we win in the Federal Court we loose”. This particular worker is owed in excess of $70,000 and will only receive about $20,000 if they win the case.

The lesson that needs to be drawn by the labour movement is that we can not put any trust in the bosses, their courts or their system. The courts are not the best arena for us to do battle. This case shows the arrogance of the ruling class as they know they are in a much better position to win at this point in time. Unfortunately this is because most of the unions are happy to play by their rules.

If we are to ensure bosses can not steal our money and then act violently towards us in the future we will need to take a very different approach. This approach will need to include mass action aimed at breaking the laws that are designed to keep us at bay. This is the only way forward.

CAMP FOR CLIMATE ACTION

A REPORT BY MICKIE SKELTON

Behind my left shoulder a heavy inert force is resting on my head and drooling down my neck. Breathing into my ear the horse, spurred on by the police officer sitting above, suddenly pushes forward, shoving me off balance with its chest. This has been going on for twenty minutes as a group of 40 of us desperately try to delay the police line from pushing the protest away from the railway line leading to Carrington coal terminal. For this tactical action, three groups had teamed together - the Apocalypse Bloc, The Planeteers and the Urban Animals. Like the rest of the protest we were colourful, theatrical and determined. But as elsewhere during the day, the fragile balance between our commitment to non-violence and pointed police aggression felt as though it was about to give way. That is until some pure soul initiated the most genius moment of protest confidence building, lifting their voice above the horses and the police to begin a group chorus of "We all live in a yellow submarine, a yellow submarine, a yellow submarine!"

On any given day you can count at least a dozen coal ships slowly lumbering into Newcastle port. I was told that a comrade had once counted 50 in one go. Newcastle itself is deceptive - essentially an industrial city, it's easy to get swept away with excitement over the possibilities of so many empty buildings, the sun and the surf - that is before you climb the hill above town and gain a sense of perspective on how fully the city is dominated by industry and its environmental pollution. The next time someone tries to tell you that Windfarms are an 'eyesore'; send them here. As the seventh most populated city in Australia, where the major employment opportunities relate to the process of energy creation, this should be the perfect place for renewable energy infrastructure to be developed.

As a collection of dedicated and genuinely passionate people (and of course, undercover cops), the Camp for Climate Action was a haven from this world, and personally I found the organising that took place here truly inspiring. Spokescouncils were held every night to co-ordinate the large number of people involved in Sunday's action, as well as dealing with grievance proceedings, and the facilitators of these must be commended for their fine work.

For months before the Camp, the organising team had been working to create a message of community direct action, and it was a measure of the Camp's success that the unaffiliated and the unsure were also able to be included in the protest through a program of carefully facilitated workshops and Non-Violent Direct Action training. The perils of moralistic organising aside, it was uplifting to feel that "we" were a side slowly gaining self-confidence and momentum, moving towards goals that included long-term social re-organisation. Overall the feeling in the camp was that each group and individual had a role to play in making the action a success. And damn! Collective action feels satisfying.

In total, 57 people were taken into police custody on Sunday. Most of those who made it on to the tracks were charged with trespass and released with $400 fines. However the levels of police aggression on the day led to several people being charged with resist arrest as they were snatched from the crowd. One activist was thrown to the ground from the coal train by an officer, leading to several hours in hospital with a concussion and fractured Humerus bone. Yet as these things were announced at the debrief, the arrests were actually applauded! In many ways non-violence arguably protects the state, allowing it to marginalise our movements into safely repressible and undefended ghettos. However it occurs to me that non-violence is useful where it reaches out to broader communities - especially when it takes place on a mass scale. Far harder to demonise than directly forceful or covert actions, it undermines the media tactic of de-legitimising valid opinions via a focus on their anti-social aspects. Hopefully the lessons learned here in Newcastle can be taken towards the organising for APSDE (arms fair) in November [see www.apdsexhibition.org]- something that will require a careful balance between directed and strategic disruption and community support and endorsement.

Review of the G8 Counter Forum in Japan

by Grumpy Cat

The Counter G8 International Forum was part of the mobilisations against the G8 specifically (and capitalism more generally) recently held in Japan. It ran from the 30th of June til the 1st of July in Tokyo and then continued in Sapporo on the 3rd. It was part of a much broader constellation of meetings and gatherings throughout Japan – with many continuing the following days in Hokkaido: the actual site of both the G8 meetings and counter-protests.

I have to say I was really impressed by Counter-forum. In many international gatherings of the 'movement of movements', such as the World Social Forum, there has been the marginalisation of genuinely revolutionary voices and the colonisation of space by the 'mainstream' Left. Here it was quite different. All the speakers I saw were at least anti-capitalist and most were talking about revolution in one way or another. Also they all seemed to be from various 'libertarian' perspectives: that is they were anti-statist and anti-vanguardist. Yet within this framework there was no party line and the differences and debate was pretty impressive. Many such as Massimo De Angelis, John Holloway, Bifo and Micheal Hardt are part of what we may call (but in very different ways) 'autonomist Marxism', while David Graeber and Andrej Grubacic (for example) are anarchists. But many of the non-western speakers, such as Mariko Adachi from Japan, defy such labels, but rather are carrying out their own innovations in the revolutionary critique of capitalist society and should not be pigeon-holed into easy-to-understand boxes. This diversity led to an incredible level of interchange of ideas and a genuinely respectful atmosphere. I was permanently excited about the high level of discussion that was connected to the struggle to free ourselves from capital.

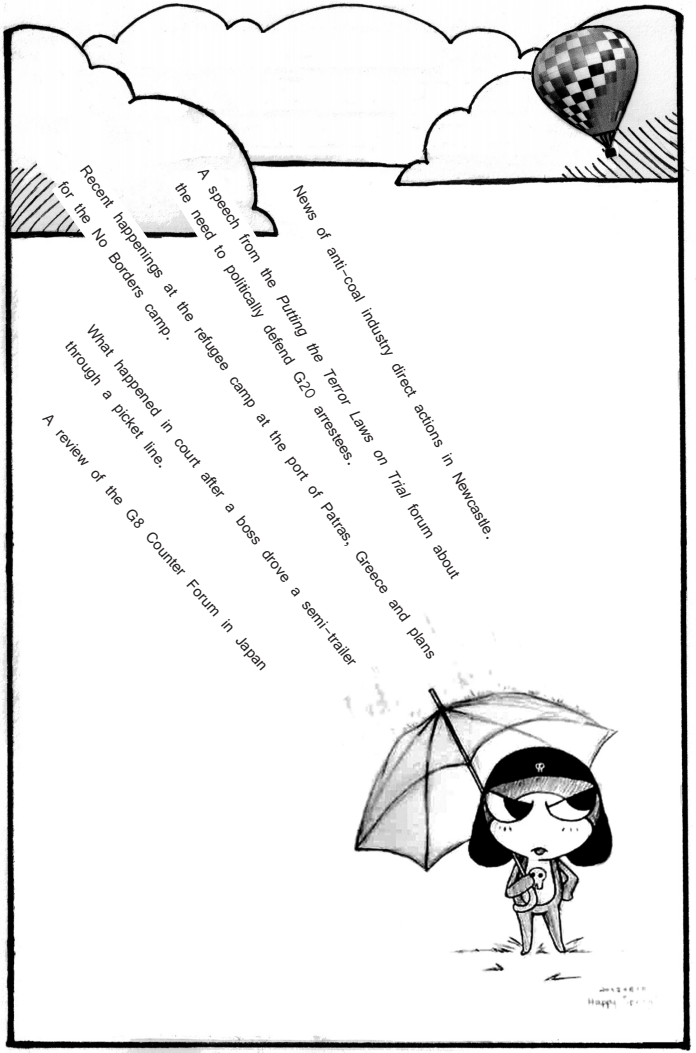
Most of the presentations took the place of panels with speakers presenting papers. There were no 'workshops' in the Australian sense. A highlight was Jim Fleming's and Bifo's discussion about autonomist media that took place in a room full of transistor radios emitting low levels of white noise as the whole talk was broadcast by pirate radio through an aerial stuck on the window. Rather than distracting from the discussion it accentuated Bifo's argument about how some of our early tactics of media activism have given way to the post-modern cacophony and destroy our ability to communicate. A thin frail broadcast of intense radical critique cast across the night sky of the vast metropolis of Tokyo: a thoughtful call of rebellion in the heart of (one of) the capital(s) of Capital.

Not only was the discussion brilliant but the general social atmosphere was so joyous. The forum started with a party in a radical bookshop/space called 'poetry in the kitchen' and there was a permanent buzz of greetings, storytelling, email address swapping, eating and drinking through the forum. (There were also hints of romance – but tastefully discrete).

Of course there were problems. Translation proved a constant difficulty with some of the Japanese contributions not being translated into English (and neither Japanese nor English being translated into anything else). I was never really told a reason why this happened. Also there was a practice of reiteration which I found quite strange. After a presenter would speak, someone else on the panel would provide a summary of that presentation. I never really understood why this happened. I found it a bit patronising and speculated that it had something to do with traditions of rote learning in Japanese education. This greatly reduced the time allotted for discussions and contributions from the floor. There were also the usual tensions over the type of language of discussions. For example one person objected to Mariko Adachi's talk as being too academic and commented that it was easier to understand Holloway's and Hardt's English than her Japanese.

The problems with translation reflect broader difficulties of communication and division based on national lines. I spent a lot of time talking with American and English people not just because of a shared language but also because of cultural references. The same with Japanese comrades I quickly formed bonds with – we had a series of shared references. There were fault lines of entrenched division that underscored the whole event. I also got the impression that some militants from overseas, especially Europe, thought that the counter forum was a distraction from the 'real' action of organising for the protest.

I don't think these contradictions can be easily overcome but have to be constantly negotiated and worked at over time. And sure it was just a conference, people rushing from room to room, enthusiastic discussions and exhausted participants, and sure there would have been only a few hundred people there. But it was wonderful.


News of anti-coal industry direct actions in Newcastle.
A speech from the *Putting the Terror Laws on Trial* forum about the need to politically defend G20 arrestees.
Recent happenings at the refugee camp at the port of Patras, Greece and plans for the No Borders camp.
What happened in court after a boss drove a semi-trailer through a picket line.
A review of the G8 Counter Forum in Japan